inhibitor which consists of displacement chromatography and involves using a displacer for displacing the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

2. (amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of mevastatin, pravastatin, lovastatin, simvastatin, fluvastatin or atorvastatin.

3. (amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor has a lactone form or is in the form of the acid or the salt thereof.

4. (amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the displacement chromatography consists of the following steps:

a) conditioning a chromatography column with a mobile phase;

b) feeding the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor dissolved in the mobile phase onto the chromatography column;

c) introducing the displacer for displacing the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor from the column; and

d) obtaining the purified HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

5. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the obtaining further comprises:

d1) collecting the fractions;

d2) analyzing the fractions with analytical HPLC; and

d3) pooling the fractions depending on the quality of purity.

6. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the displacement chromatography further consists of:

e) regenerating the chromatography column by washing the column with alcohol/water mixture to elute the displacer.

7. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the mobile phase is selected from the group of solvents consisting of water, acetonitrile/water solutions, aqueous solutions of lower alcohols, and buffered dilute solutions of organic, halogenated organic or inorganic acids with alkaline metal cations, with ammonia or with amines.

8. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the mobile phase is selected from the group of solvents consisting of water, acetonitrile/water solutions and aqueous solutions of lower alcohols.

9. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the pH of the mobile phase used is between 4.5 and 10.5.

10. (amended) A process according to claim 9, wherein the pH of the mobile phase used is between 6.5 and 8.

Al cont.

11. (amended) A process according to claim 10, wherein the pH of the mobile phase used is 7.

12. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the flow rate of the mobile phase through the chromatographic column is between 1.5 and 30 mL/ (min cm^2).

13. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the flow rate of the mobile phase/displacer mixture through the chromatographic column is between 3 and 15 mL/ (min cm^2).

14. (amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the stationary phase is regenerated with 20 to 100% aqueous solution of lower alcohols after completed chromatography.

15. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the stationary phase is a reverse phase.

16. (amended) R process according to claim 15, wherein the stationary phase is a natural reverse phase including silica gel with alkyl chains of different lengths.

17. (amended) A process according to claim 15, wherein the stationary phase is either C-18 or C-8.

18. (amended) A process according to claim 15, wherein the stationary phase is a synthetic cross-linked polymer matrix .

19. (amended) A process according to claim 18, wherein the cross-linked polymer matrix is a copolymer of styrene and divinylbenzene.

20. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the particle size of the stationary phase is between 3 and 20 μm.

21. (amended) A process according to claim 20, wherein the particle size of the stationary phase is between 7 and 15 μm.

22. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the displacer is selected from the group consisting of long chain alcohols, long chain carboxylic acids, long chain alkyl ammonium salts, aromatic dicarboxylic acid esters, oxo- and dioxo-alcohols, polyalkylene polyglycol ethers and polyaryl or polyalkylene polyaryl ethers.

23. (amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the concentration of the displacer in the mobile phase is between 1 and 35%.

24. (amended) A process according to claim 23, wherein the concentration of the displacer in the mobile phase is between 2 and 20%.

25. (amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor obtained by the process has HPLC purity exceeding 99.7%.

26. (new) A process according to claim 2 wherein:

(a) the HMG reductase inhibitor has a lactone form or is in the form of the acid or the salt thereof;

(b) the displacement chromatography includes:

(i) conditioning a chromatography column with a mobile phase;

(ii) feeding the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor dissolved in the mobile phase onto the chromatography column;

(iii) introducing the displacer fox' displacing the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor from the column; and

(iv) collecting HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor fractions from the stationary phase and pooling the fractions depending on the quality of purity;

wherein the mobile phase is any one of water, an acetonitrile/water solution or an aqueous solution of lower alcohols;

wherein the pH of the mobile phase used is between 4.5 and 10.5;

wherein the flow rate of the mobile phase through the chromatographic column is between 1.5 and 30 ml/(min cm^2) ;

wherein the stationary phase is either C-18 or C-8 and the cross-linked polymer matrix of the stationary phase is a copolymer of styrene and divinylbenzene;

wherein the particle size of the stationary phase is between 3 and 20 μm; and

wherein the displacer is selected from the group consisting of long chain alcohols, long chain carboxylic acids, long chain alkyl ammonium salts, aromatic dicarboxylic acid esters, oxo- and dioxo-alcohols, polyalkylene polyglycol ethers and polyaryl or polyalkylene polyaryl ethers and wherein the concentration of the displacer in the mobile phase is between 1 and 35%.

27. (new) A process according to claim 26 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor obtained by the process has HPLC purity exceeding 99.7%.